IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of increasing healing of a heart wound in a mammal, comprising the step of administering to a first mammal having a heart wound ~~in need thereof~~ an amount of a thyroid hormone-lowering agent effective to decrease a level of a T3 or T4 thyroid hormone by at least 80% relative to the T3 or T4 thyroid hormone level in a second mammal to whom the thyroid hormone-lowering agent has not been administered ~~in the mammal to a low normal level or to a below normal level~~, whereby healing of a heart wound in the first mammal is increased relative to healing of a heart wound in ~~a~~ the second mammal ~~to whom the thyroid hormone-lowering agent has not been administered~~.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone-lowering agent is propylthiouracil.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone-lowering agent is methimazole.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone-lowering agent is carbamizole.

5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone-lowering agent is radiolabeled iodide.

6-14. (canceled)

15. (currently) The method of claim 1 wherein the first and second mammals are ~~mammal is a~~ C57Bl/6 mice ~~mouse~~.

16. (currently) The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~mammal is a human~~ first and second mammals are humans.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the increased healing in the first mammal comprises re-epithelialization.

18. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone lowering agent decreases T3 levels.

19. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone lowering agent decreases T4 levels.

20. (canceled).

21. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone lowering agent is administered after wounding.

22. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the thyroid hormone lowering agent is administered concomitant with wounding.

23. (canceled)

24. (previously added) The method of claim 1 wherein the heart wound is an ischemic infarct.

25. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of detecting increased healing of the heart wound in the first mammal.

26. (newly added) A method of increasing healing of a heart wound in a human, comprising the step of administering to a human in need thereof an amount of propylthiouracil effective to decrease a level of a T3 or T4 thyroid hormone by at least 80% relative to the T3 or

T4 thyroid hormone level in a second human to whom the propylthiouracil has not been administered, whereby healing of a heart wound in the first human is increased relative to healing of a heart wound in the second human.